



Newsletter 12

25th November 2009

Christmas comes early to St Paul's

Did I just hear someone groan? It seems Christmas starts earlier and earlier each year. And for most parents, this has serious financial (and emotional) implications. But, who could begrudge any child a little bit of extra excitement around this time of year? I am sure you are aware, that Christmas traditions in Belgium are quite different to many other parts of the world, and one of the most exciting times for children is around the 5th and 6th of December when Sinter Klaas (St Nicholas) does his rounds. He has a helper called Zwarte Piet, who does the climbing in and out of chimneys for Sinter Klaas, hence his name 'Black' Piet. This year however, Sinter Klaas is coming to Vossem early, on Wednesday 2nd December, and thanks to our friendly local Flemish 'Basisschool', who arranged it, he will be visiting us at midday.

As this is a half day for our Nursery and Reception children, we would like to ask that the parents of Nursery children come and pick them up 10 minutes earlier and bring them over to the school hall for Sinter Klaas' visit. Parents of our Reception children are requested to come 15 minutes later than usual, at 12:30pm, so that the Reception children can see him before going home. We are hoping that Sinter Klaas will bring us some presents for our classrooms. We are also going to leave our wellies in the hall overnight in the hope that Zwarte Piet may leave us some candy during the night!

We are all really excited at the prospect of seeing Sinter Klaas for real, BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL THE CHILDREN – WE WANT IT TO BE A SURPRISE!

Desperate Plea

Last week I said that we would be running a Christmas craft day for the children at the end of this term and we are collecting little jam jars for one of the activities. I have since then been informed that the craft day is next week and we have had very few responses. Please could all children, in years 1 to 4, bring in a see through jar with a wide lid and a capacity of 150 to 200ml. Please deliver them to the school office or to Caroline on Monday morning.

Christianity Explored

Developed over 10 years, Christianity Explored is an informal course for people who'd like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. It explores who Jesus was, what his aims were, and what it means to follow him.

You won't be asked to pray, sing or read aloud, and you can ask any questions you like. Or, if you prefer, you can just come along and listen.

We will be running the course at school for any parents who may be interested (and their friends) starting on 13 January 2010. The course will be presented by Chris Edwards (from St Paul's Church) and will run each Wednesday morning from 9:15 to 10:30am for 10 weeks.

There will be tea and coffee provided (possibly even a croissant or muffin too) and some time at the beginning or end to chat to other people on the course. If you have any questions, please contact Brett, or have a look at the Christianity Explored website at www.christianityexplored.org/

Now that's what I call music!

Do you enjoy singing popular, upbeat music? Will one of your New Year's Resolutions be taking up a new hobby or re-kindling a favourite past-time? If the answer is yes, then read on!

A new adult choir is being established, starting on Thursday 07 January 2010 from 8.00 - 9.30pm. We will meet in the school hall of St. Paul's British Primary School, Stationsstraat 3, Vossem on alternate Thursdays. We aim to sing for pleasure and have fun, whilst making new friends.

No auditions, but a good voice and ear for music are desirable. A minimal joining fee of €25 for the year and a small weekly payment of €2.50 will cover the cost of music and overheads.

For more information contact Rachael Bateman, 02 306 5515 or rachael_bateman@hotmail.com or Sian Macey, 02 731 3201 or maceycardiff@hotmail.co.uk

Dutch Classes

Do you get frustrated that you don't understand any Dutch? Would you like to know how to ask for bread in your local bakery, order meat at your butchers, exchange everyday pleasantries with your neighbours, and lots more!

A weekly Dutch beginners course will start on Tuesday 12 January from 9.15 - 10.30am at school. If you're interested in attending this course please give your details to Sarah in the office by Friday 20 November. A weekly fee of 5 euros will be payable to cover the tutors time and any photocopying materials.

If you need further information please contact Vivienne Kamphuis on 0477 388983 or vivienne.bird@telenet.be

Dates for the diary

Wednesday 2 December	Visit from Sinter Klaas from 12:00pm
Thursday 3 December	Yr 3/4 visit to 'Technopolis'
Wednesday 9 December	Christmas 'shopping' morning
Saturday 12 December	Christmas Fair from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Tuesday 15 December	Christmas Concert Dress rehearsal
Wednesday 16 December	Christmas Concert at 11:00 am
Thursday 17 December	Carols Evening 6:30 for 7:00 pm
Friday 18 December	End of term, 12 noon
Monday 4 January 2010	Start of Spring Term
Monday 15 to Friday 19 February 2010	Half term break